

TWO DADS MAKE A FAMILY

▶ Erez, age 15, Lucas, age 13,
and their dads, Andy and Jesse



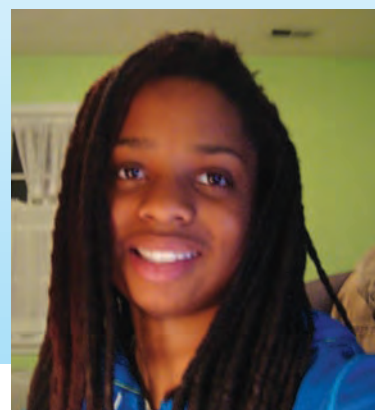
Erez Luis Mirer

Age: 15

Home: New York City

"People are people, and gay people should have the same rights as straight married couples."

My family started with my father, Andy. He adopted me when I was two weeks old. Andy's friends introduced him to Jesse when I was 13 months old, and he soon became part of the family. Later, my dads both wanted another child, so they adopted my brother, Lucas.



Allie Howish-Hammer

Age: 15

Home: Indianapolis, Indiana

"I believe that all gay people should have the right to marry any sex of their choice. It's their decision, not the world's."

My family consists of four people: me, my sister and my two gay dads. My sister and I were adopted at birth. Lucky for us our dads wanted to keep us.

To read more about what Erez and Allie say about their families, go to www.indykids.net

State by State, Same-Sex Marriage Becomes Legal

By **AMANDA VENDER**

It may be hard to believe that up until 1967, in many U.S. states it was a crime for a white person to marry a non-white person. Now there is a movement gaining strength to allow an adult to marry any adult he or she wants, including a man who wants to marry another man or a woman who wants to marry another woman.

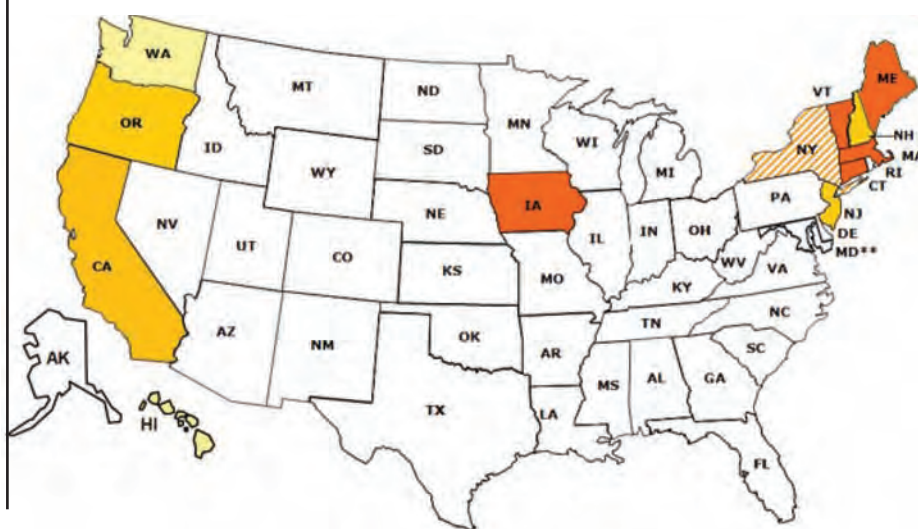
Many same-sex couples want the right to marry because they are in love and have been together for many years. They want the right to have their relationship officially recognized as a marriage and to have all of the legal benefits that go with marriage.

In May the Maine state legislature voted to make same-sex marriage legal. Now there are a total of five states where same-sex couples can be legally married: Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa and Maine. In April, New York Governor David Paterson introduced a

bill to make same-sex marriage legal in New York, saying, "We stand to tell the world that we want equality for everyone. We stand to tell the world that we want marriage equality in New York State."

Activists working for same-sex marriage would like to see same-sex marriage recognized by the federal government, not just by the state. That way, same-sex couples would have the same rights as married couples when they travel to other states and countries and would gain rights that only the federal government can grant. Currently same-sex marriage is recognized countrywide in Canada, South Africa, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain.

States Where Same-Sex Couples are Recognized (as of May, 2009)



- These states give marriage licenses to same-sex couples
- If married in another state, New York recognizes the marriage
- These states give the same rights to same-sex couples as married couples, but they do not recognize same-sex marriages
- These states give *some* of the same rights to same-sex couples as they do to married couples, but they do not recognize same-sex marriage

Some Rights of Married People

Health Care: If one member of a married couple has health care through an employer, his or her spouse can have the same health care. They can also visit each other in the hospital and make medical decisions if the partner is not able.

Immigration: A person can apply for his or her spouse to become a legal immigrant. Same-sex couples are usually forced to leave the country or separate if one person is not a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

Taxes: Married couples pay less in taxes than non-married couples.



Meet... Seth from Thailand

Name: Seth Franklin (English),
Sittikorn Samiunkul (Thai)

Age: 11

Hometown: Chiang Mai

Languages Spoken: English and Thai

Family: Seth was adopted by his mother,
a U.S. citizen living in Thailand. He has
two sisters, Lala, 24, and Malia, 21.

Favorite Food: Pizza and hot dogs

Hobbies: Playing car games on the
internet or a mobile phone

Favorite subjects in school: Math
and English

**What he wants to be when he
grows up:** Own a restaurant that sells
American food

**Something Seth has heard about
life in the United States:** "People play
golf, like my grandma and
Tiger Woods."



Thailand at a Glance

Population: 64.3 million

Capital: Bangkok

Location: Southeast Asia

Language: Thai

Average Yearly Income Per Person:
\$3,400

Religion: Buddhism and Islam

Head of State: King Bhumibol
Adulyadej

Prime Minister: Abhisit Vejjajiva

Government: Constitutional monarchy

History: The Thai kingdom was
founded in the 14th century. It was
the only Southeast Asian country not
taken over by a European power
during colonial times.

Learn a little Thai

Sawasdee krap! Hello (if you are a boy)

Sawasdee Kha! Hello (if you are a girl)

Lodt: Car

Motosai: Motorcycle

Sanuk: Fun

Mae baan: Housekeeper

CHILD PROFILE COMPILED BY FANNY SOSENKE

1 in 50

That's how many children in the United States are homeless

nation&world

Pirates on Somali Seas

Are they bandits or defenders of Somalia's natural resources?

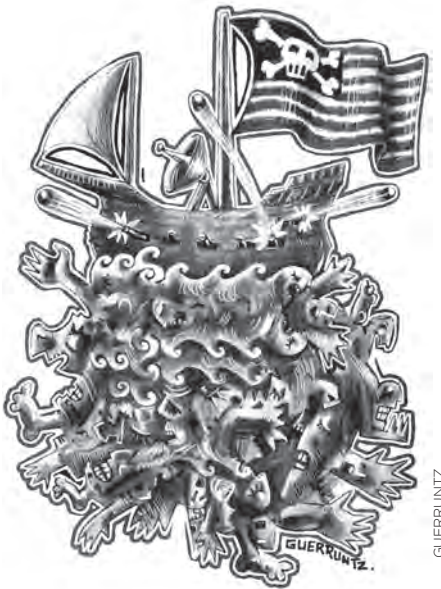
By ERIN THOMPSON

The U.S. military rescued a U.S. ship captain who had been taken hostage by "pirates" off the coast of Somalia in April. Members of the U.S. Navy killed three Somali teens who were holding the captain hostage on a lifeboat after they attacked a U.S. cargo ship.

Attacks on ships off the coast of Somalia, a country in east Africa, have soared in the last year, according to the U.S. Maritime Bureau. But, while attacks have been labeled a top threat to ships in the region by the U.S. government, the main reasons for the attacks have been ignored—illegal fishing by big foreign fishing companies and the pollution of Somali waters.

Illegal fishing off the Somali coast by foreign fishing companies means there are a lot fewer fish in the sea for the local Somali fisherman who need to make a living. European companies have also been using Somali waters as a dumping ground for waste, including harmful chemicals and nuclear waste. "Somebody is dumping nuclear material here," Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, a United Nations representative in Somalia, told British journalist Johann Hari. "There is also lead and heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury—you name it."

After a tsunami in 2005, Somalis reported barrels of toxic material washing up on shore and making residents sick. One of the Somali pirate leaders told Johann Hari,



GUERRUNTZ

"We don't consider ourselves sea bandits. We consider sea bandits [to be] those who illegally fish and dump in our seas."

Peru's ex-President Sentenced to 25 Years in Jail

By JUDI CHENG

On April 7, the ex-president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, now age 70, was convicted of crimes against humanity. He was given a 25-year sentence by a three-judge panel of Peru's Supreme Court. It is the first time an elected former head of state has been convicted in his own country for crimes against humanity under international criminal law.

Fujimori was found responsible for the killings of civilians by government death squads that took place during his presidency from 1990-2000.

He is also facing charges of corruption including illegal phone-tap-

ping, misuse of government funds and paying money to media companies so that they would print stories to make him look good.

In 2000, Fujimori resigned after fleeing to Japan to avoid a corruption scandal. Japan protected him as a national, since Fujimori is of Japanese descent. Japan refused to extradite him (send him back). In 2005, he went to Chile to try to get back into politics in Peru but in 2007 he was arrested and sent back to Peru.

"The Peruvian court has shown that even former heads of state cannot expect to get away with serious crimes," said Maria MacFarland of the organization Human Rights Watch.



NOTICERODIGITAL.COM

The sentence of Peru's ex-President Alberto Fujimori marks the first time an elected former head of state was convicted in his own country of human rights crimes.

Crimes Against Humanity:

an official or widespread policy of degrading or humiliating attacks on a person or group of people

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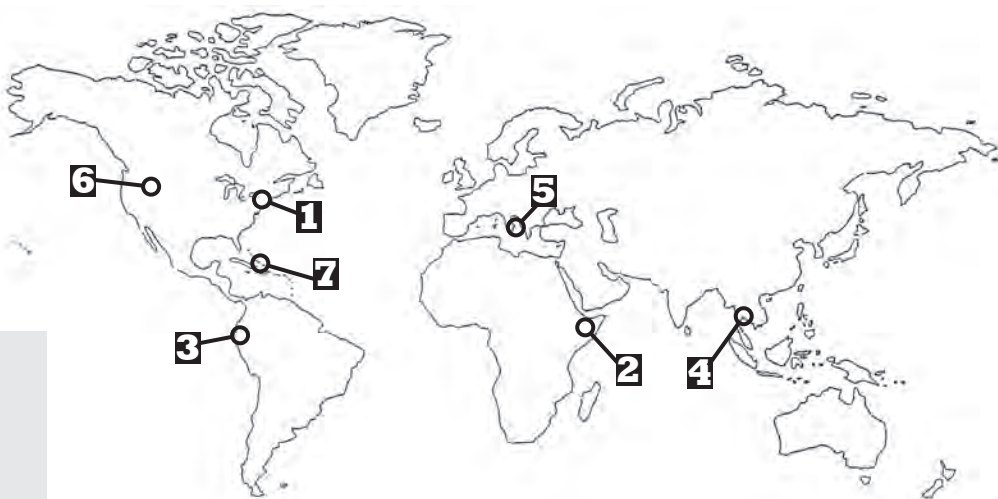
• Helen Stavrou & Tom Grannell

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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers at bottom of this page.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| a) New York ____ | f) Guantánamo, Cuba ____ |
| b) Montana ____ | g) Italy ____ |
| c) Peru ____ | |
| d) Thailand ____ | |
| e) Somalia ____ | |



Tent City, USA

Shantytowns Flourish as Economy Worsens



FLICKR.COM/AMANDAN

By BILL MARSH

As people find themselves out of work and unable to afford high monthly mortgage payments and escalating rents, tent cities are popping up across the United States.

Inhabiting empty fields, abandoned parking lots and already overcrowded shelters, homeless people—many of whom have only recently lost their jobs and homes—have set up camps in small and big cities across the country, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and

Torture Practices Revealed by Obama Administration

By AMANDA VENDER

President Obama released a set of secret memos to the public in April. These memos contained details about how the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) questioned people it caught in other countries following the September 11, 2001 attacks. The harsh techniques the government used to get information from prisoners are considered to be torture, which is known to produce wrong information and is illegal under U.S. and international law.

The week after Obama released the memos, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee published a report on its own investigation into the torture of prisoners. The committee found that top officials gave the go-ahead to abuse prisoners. The report says: "The abuse of detainees in U.S. custody cannot simply be attributed to the actions

of 'a few bad apples' acting on their own." It goes on to say that senior U.S. officials approved of these illegal techniques and said they were legal.

Now the question is whether the Obama administration will investigate and punish the top officials who violated laws and approved of torture. While President Obama first said that he would not put the former Bush officials on trial, he later changed his mind and said that Attorney General Eric Holder should make this decision.

Judge Jay S. Bybee, a Bush administration lawyer, defended his signing of the memos. "I believed at the time, and continue to believe today, that the conclusions were legally correct," he told the *New York Times*.

On April 23 a coalition of human rights groups delivered a petition with 250,000 signatures to the attorney general demanding that

he investigate the Bush administration's use of torture.



NEW YORK/INDYMEDIA



FLICKR.COM

PRES.ORG

Immigrant teens from Bronx International High School protested human rights violations at the U.S. prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. The release of secret memos about the Bush administration's torture of prisoners could lead to investigation and punishment of top officials including Judge Jay Bybee (left), a Bush lawyer, and to former President Bush (right).

newsbriefs

Drop the Rock



In April, leading Democrats in New York successfully repealed strict drug laws enacted in the 1970s. The Rockefeller Drug Laws, named after former governor Nelson Rockefeller, imposed long mandatory prison sentences for minor drug offenses and tended to punish people of color disproportionately. Judges can now assign drug treatment as an alternative to jail time.

Horse Slaughter



Due to the economic downturn, many horse owners are finding it too expensive to take care of their horses. In Montana, controversy surrounds

House Bill 418, which will permit horse slaughter in the state. Backers of the bill are considering selling the meat to other countries for human consumption. Opponents say that slaughtering horses is inhumane and that eating meat from old horses is not healthy.

Doctors and CIA Torture

Doctors working for the CIA participated in torturing prisoners held by the United States in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, according to a report produced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The report, held secret by the Bush administration since 2007, was made public by President Obama in April. About 242 people from about 30 countries were being held in prison at the U.S. base in Guantánamo Bay in January, according to the ICRC.

Swine Flu



AMANDA VENDER

A curious case of "swine flu" caused frenzy around the world in April. The swine flu virus is blamed for 42 deaths in Mexico and two in the United States. While over 700 U.S. schools closed down for days in April to prevent the spread of the virus, U.S. government officials found this strain of flu was not very dangerous. The average seasonal flu is much worse with about 36,000 deaths in the U.S. every year.

Food Where You Live

AMANDA VENDER



Big Supermarkets
Some neighborhoods have grocery stores with aisles of colorful sweet-smelling fresh fruits and vegetables at affordable prices.

Convenience Stores

Unfortunately, more and more of us are living in food deserts. We can walk and walk all over the neighborhood in search of fresh vegetables or fruit, and all we find are fast food restaurants and convenience stores. These stores sell foods in sealed boxes, bags, cans or bottles that can sit on shelves or in freezers for months – or even years.



AMANDA VENDER

Community Garden

When there are limited options for fresh foods, some residents take matters into their own hands. In city neighborhoods like this one in Brooklyn, NY residents have started community gardens where they grow their own vegetables.



FLAIRRUSH GARDENER

Green Markets

Some city neighborhoods, like this one in Chicago, have green markets where farmers come each week to sell their harvests. Residents get fresh food that didn't have to travel far to get to them.



SWANKSALOT

Home Gardens

In March First-Lady Michelle Obama started an organic garden on White House property to promote eating fresh vegetables.



THE WHITE HOUSE / JOYCE N. BOGHOSIAN

“Organic” means that there are no chemical pesticides or fertilizers used. Not everyone was happy with the news. The Mid America Crop Life Association that represents the companies that make pesticides is concerned that Obama isn't using chemicals on her garden, fearing that the organic garden will give crop chemicals a bad reputation.

Fresh Food or Fast Food?

Getting Healthy Food Isn't Always Easy

Doctors and nutrition experts recommend that people eat plenty of fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables and whole grains every day. However, we do not all have the same ability to find these foods. How well we eat often depends on where we live. And where we live depends on how much money we have.

A Yale University report from the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, fall 2008, says “low-income people, minorities, and rural residents suffer the highest rates of preventable, diet-related diseases linked to insufficient consumption of healthy foods.”

According to the report, some reasons why some residents aren't getting enough healthy foods include:

1. Low-income areas don't have as many supermarkets and grocery stores as middle and high-income neighborhoods.
2. Stores in low-income neighborhoods have fewer healthy items and have lower-quality fresh fruits and vegetables.
3. If they are available, fresh foods in low-income areas are unaffordable.
4. There is a lack of public transportation to supermarkets, so people have a hard time getting to them.

Many people feel that access to healthy food is a human right that the government should protect. *What do you think?*



AMANDA VENDER

Convenience Stores

Children and teenagers living in a U.S. neighborhoods where there are more convenience stores **are more likely to be overweight** than kids living where there are fewer convenience stores.



LOVE, CHRISTINE (CHRISTINE HALE)
WWW.LOVECHRISTINE.COM

Junk Food Commercials Target Kids, Even In School

When we study nutrition in school, we learn about the healthy foods we should eat. So why are nearly one in three kids in the United States still overweight? Part of the reason is that fast food and junk food companies spend over \$5 billion a year on advertisements targeting kids, and it works.

Children spend \$20 billion per year of their own money and influence another \$200-\$500 billion in spending by adults in their lives, according to Professor Alex Molnar of Arizona State University. That means that even young kids' pocket and allowance money is important to big corporations, and they try to convince kids to give it to them.

More and more, especially since the 1990s, corporations are getting their message to kids while kids are in school. About 67 percent of public schools now have in-school advertising by fast food and junk food corporations, according to Arizona State University's Commercialism in Education Research Unit.

Food companies say that these programs are a way of giving back to the community and supporting education. But the bottom line is that these companies can get bigger profits by reaching kids in school. “The school system is where you build brand loyalty,” John Alm, president and chief operating officer of Coca-Cola Enterprises, told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 2003.

Many school boards across the country are limiting or banning these types of commercials in school. For example, in 2004 the DeKalb County, Georgia School Board said that schools are not allowed to sell soft drinks, candy and other items during the school day

CENTERSPREAD TEXT BY AMANDA VENDER AND MAGGIE FISHMAN. DESIGN BY KRIS KUMOR. THIS PAGE RELIED ON SEVERAL RESOURCES INCLUDING: ALEX MOLNAR'S, *SCHOOL COMMERCIALISM: FROM DEMOCRATIC IDEAL TO MARKET COMMODITY*, NEW YORK: ROUTLEDGE, 2005. CAMPAIGN FOR A COMMERCIAL FREE CHILDHOOD AND THE RUDD CENTER FOR FOOD POLICY AND OBESITY, YALEUNIVERSITY

YALE UNIVERSITY, RUDD CENTER FOR FOOD POLICY AND OBESITY

Advertising Sleuth!

See how many junk food and other corporate ads you can find at your school. Some places to look:

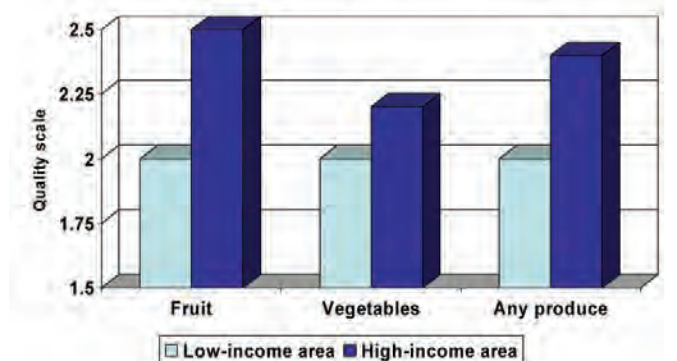
- **Vending machines:** Your school may have a contract with a soft drink company. The company gives the school some money to allow it to be in the school, but the school is not allowed to sell competing brands of soft drinks.
- **School library:** The library pays for magazines full of ads for sugary foods and all kinds of products aimed at kids. Ask the library to carry the ad-free *IndyKids* instead!
- **Fundraising programs:** Kids become salespeople when they sell products of for-profit companies in order to raise money for school programs.
- **Written materials:** Look for who produced the hand-outs you receive. It may be a for-profit corporation.
- **Special programs, scholarships and contests:** For example, the BOOK IT! reading program sponsored by Pizza Hut offers coupons in exchange for reading books.
- **Space around the school:** Look for ads or company logos on school buses, scoreboards, posters, textbooks and rooms or wings of the school.

\$1.3 billion
Amount McDonald's spent on advertising in the United States in 2002



PHIL DRAGASH

Produce Quality in Lower- vs. Higher-Income Neighborhoods



Earthquake in Italy



Flickr.com/sunrise-seven

In early April, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook the mountainous Abruzzo region, east of Rome. The earthquake left an estimated 290 people dead, about 48,000 homeless and around 1,000 injured.

Electric Cars

General Motors announced plans to release a new electric car in 2010. Years ago, GM had the technology to build and assemble an electric car but did not pursue it because of the corporation's extensive relationships with the oil industry. China is also planning to release electric vehicles in response to climate change and efforts to preserve the environment.

Pistachio Recall

In March, food suppliers found salmonella while testing pistachios for safety. Salmonella is a bacteria spread by fecal matter in animals or humans. It causes food poisoning and can be fatal. Many companies recalled their pistachio products from around the world. Critics say that food contamination is happening more often because of the need for speedy growth and processing of food to satisfy consumer markets.

Book Review: 'Hungry Planet'



By ZAZIL DAVIS-VAZQUEZ

Hungry Planet, by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, is about what people in the world eat. Colorful photographs and detailed descriptions reveal what 30 families in 24 countries eat each week and how much they spend on food.

The book offers many useful comparisons. For example, a family in Mali eats mostly grains and vegetables and spends an equivalent of \$26 at an outdoor market, whereas a family in France spends \$420 on mostly produce and prepared foods at a giant supermarket.

The stories in the body of the book focus on specific families, but the informative charts in the back offer statistics about the countries they live in. One chart shows, for example, that in the United States the entire population has access to safe water, whereas only 27 of every 100 people have clean water in Chad.

The beautiful photographs and eye-opening statistics make *Hungry Planet* an interesting reference for people who want to learn more about what people eat around the world.

\$528 million That's how much New York City and New York State taxpayers contributed to build the new Yankee Stadium

science&culture

Stadium Madness

The Public's Money Funds Private Stadiums



By DAVE ZIRIN

OPINION "You can't throw money at the problem." As a former public school teacher in Washington, D.C., I heard this phrase used often as code for "Stop whining about textbooks and classroom materials, because there is no money." Imagine my shock when the city of Washington, D.C., announced it would be spending more than \$500 million on a new baseball stadium.

This is hardly a story unique to D.C. New stadiums are presented as an instant solution to the problems of crumbling schools, urban decay and people leaving cities to live in the suburbs. In the past 10 years, more than \$16 billion of the public's money has been spent for stadium construction and upkeep from coast to coast. Though some cities are beginning to

resist paying the full price of stadiums, any kind of subsidy is a fool's investment. Stadiums are \$500 million welfare hotels for America's billionaires built with funds that could have been spent more wisely on just about anything else.

Former pitcher Jim Bouton said to me, "If I was a team owner today, asking for public money, I'd be ashamed of myself. Ashamed of myself. But we've gone beyond shame. There's no such thing as shame anymore. People aren't embarrassed to take—to do these awful things."

Bouton is absolutely correct. When it comes to stealing money from our cities, some of the richest people in this country have shown a complete absence of shame.



Barry D

Polls show the majority of people don't want public funds spent on stadiums. We sports fans need to make ourselves heard. We may love baseball. We may love football. We may bleed our team's colors on game day. But that doesn't mean we should have to pay a billionaire millions of dollars for the privilege to watch.

Dave Zirin is a sportswriter and the host of XM satellite's popular weekly show, Edge of Sports Radio.

You Are What You Eat

Kids Celebrate Healthy Snacking

By KADIRA CROWDER

Do you eat greasy, fattening, processed food? Or do you know how to make healthy eating choices? The fifth graders at PS 34 in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in New York City showed their friends and families how to make healthy choices at their Healthy Choices Food Festival.

On April 22nd the school cafeteria turned into a healthy snack sampling station. About a month before the event the 42 fifth graders were given six different recipes for nutritious snacks that kids would like. They went to the supermarket in groups and wrote down the nutrition information for each ingredient in their snack. Then the students did some tricky math that included making their own nutrition labels for each snack. On the day of the 22nd the students went to the supermarket again, this

time to buy the ingredients to whip up their snacks.

At the event, both students and teachers discussed topics including calories, good fat versus bad fat, processed versus fresh food, eating in moderation and serving sizes. The students also wrote down what they ate for almost a week, and then noticed that if they made a food pyramid of their eating choices, most students would have an upside down pyramid, meaning they eat more of what they should eat less of and less of what they should eat more of.

Finally, it was time to eat. Students and families were able to sample the snacks!

"The most important thing I learned in the nutrition unit is all the chemicals that are in foods we eat," said Omar Ishmael, a fifth grader. "Now I'm thinking [about] what goes in to my body and how it will affect [me]."

Kadira is a 5th grade student at PS 34.



Fifth graders nibble on the "Oh, Honey" health snack (see recipe on page 8) featured at the students' Healthy Choices Food Festival.



Susan Weesen

FROM GARDEN TO LUNCH: At PS 295, an elementary school in Brooklyn, New York, third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students work almost daily in a community garden near the school as part of the Garden to School Café Project. They call themselves the "Godzilla Gardeners," named for a goldfish Godzilla that lived in the pond in the garden. He was later eaten by a raccoon! After the first harvest last year the whole school got to taste the vegetables during their school lunch. "It was nice that the kids in school could experience fresh food," said Julianne Carino, a fifth grade student. The Garden to Café project continues this year, with more harvest days planned and a second school garden. Go to <http://ps295.org/E-WeeseenGarden.html> to learn more about the project.

your turn

"What would you be willing to stand up for?"

Fifth graders from PS 88 in Queens, New York, tell *IndyKids* what issues they would stand up for.

PHOTOS COURTESY ASCHA DRAKE



"I would be willing to stand up for animal rights. I think all animals should be protected because they are just as important as humans. I have now decided to become a vegetarian, as I do not think we should kill and eat creatures that have been walking on this earth. I think we need to have more respect for animals and understand their value and importance on this earth."

- Amanda Ramos



"I would be willing to be an advocate for keeping the air that we breathe clean and safe. People are smoking, fumes from cars are being spewed out, and factories are creating gases and toxins that are also affecting the air quality. I think car manufacturing companies need to be more mindful when it comes to the amount of cars that are being produced. These car factories produce terrible waste into the air."

- Rose Saad



"I would be willing to stand up for students having the right to decide what choices should be available at lunch. I do not feel there are healthy choices available. The choices are fried and covered in butter and there is not enough green to choose from. I realize that the lunch aides at the school are working very hard. But I am wondering if the lunch aides and a team of students could work together to develop a menu of healthy options."

- Jasselin Jurado



PHOTO COURTESY BRAHM AHMADI

Someday, } Lead a Food Justice Organization
you could: } just like: Brahm Ahmadi

By ILONA BRAY

Living in West Oakland, a tough, low-income neighborhood, Brahm saw how hard it was to buy healthy food. Local stores sold mostly junk food, plus the occasional floppy old carrot. His neighbors' health problems, like diabetes and obesity, showed the effects. In 2002 he founded the nonprofit organization People's Grocery, where he now serves as executive director. One of the organization's main projects is to grow food in community gardens, then sell it locally at affordable prices. It also holds camps and classes for adults and kids on gardening, cooking, nutrition, youth leadership, and more.

IndyKids: As a kid, did you ever imagine you'd someday work on food issues?

Brahm Ahmadi: My grandfather was a farmer in Iowa, and my mother was an avid gardener who made us work in her garden every Saturday. I enjoyed being out in the dirt and working with plants, but figured it was just a hobby. It's great being able to turn it into my work.

IK: How does your work let you bring about change in the world?

BA: I believe in "food justice"—that everyone, no matter where they live or how much money they earn, should have access to healthy food. We create a fairer food environment right where people live.

IK: What part of your job do you like best?

BA: It's fun to watch someone who was addicted to junk food discover how delicious a fresh-picked piece of fruit or carrot can be.

IK: Any tips for kids interested in doing similar work?

BA: Do what you believe in and be ready to learn as you go. We didn't know how to run an organization when we started, but were amazed at how many people wanted to support a good effort.

For more information: See www.peoplesgrocery.org.

letters

I think that Barack Obama should stop sending more and more troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. They can put all those billions of dollars on health care and education for families with low income. I think that all human beings have the right to have good education and good health services.

Max Strobl, Fifth grade, Hastings School, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

I don't think it's right that the Israelis can continue to attack Gaza. It was really disturbing to have to hear about this issue that happened in Gaza.

Thomas Little, Fifth grade, Hastings School, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



I think it was wrong for A-Rod to take steroids, but he is not doing steroids anymore. He did steroids in 2001. It is 2009. I think everybody should just forget about it. Everybody deserves another chance.

Isiah Rivera, Sixth grade, Secondary School for Law, Brooklyn, New York

I was thinking I could have a regular column reporting on issues of social justice here in Canada. We now have the law allowing the right of gay and lesbian marriage and adoption. I am very thankful for that law because I have two moms and was able to go to their wedding.

Zacharie Fransvaag-Dinelle, Fifth grade, Hastings School, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Being an undocumented parent or kid is very hard. I'm an immigrant, too. When I was just born in Malaysia in Asia, my parents left for New York and my aunt took care of me. They wanted jobs and a green card so my sister and I were able to come to New York and see them.

Jessy, Fifth grade, PS 173 Queens, New York

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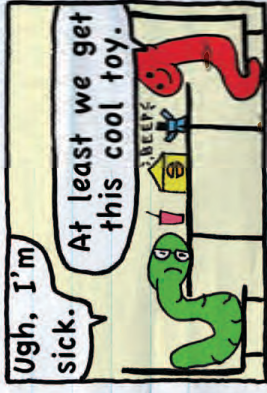
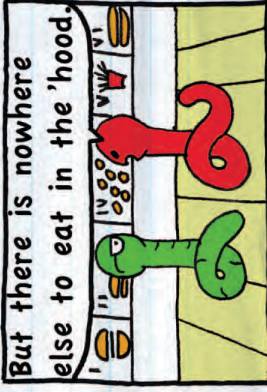
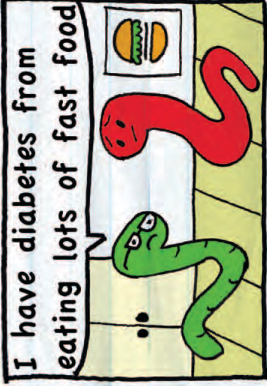
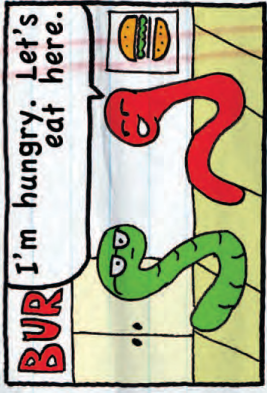
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WILTON THE WORM

By XAVIER TAYO



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL

Who Am I?

- 1. I was the first openly gay elected representative in the United States.
- 2. I fought for equal rights for all.
- 3. I went down in history as a brilliant political organizer.
- 4. I was assassinated in San Francisco in 1978.

Answer: Harvey Milk

Go for the Greens!

Avoid the junk.



LEAH ORTANEZ

Breakfast Quiz

Can you put the following breakfast cereals in order according to the sugar content?

(See answer on page 2.)



Oh, Honey! (A Sweet Snack)



ANGELICA CONWAY

- 2 whole wheat crackers
- 2 tablespoons almond butter (or peanut butter)
- 4 slices of banana
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1. Slice bananas width-wise
- 2. Spread 1 tablespoon almond butter on each whole wheat cracker
- 3. Place 2 banana slices on top of almond butter
- 4. Drizzle honey over bananas and almond butter

Planning to Change the World

A Plan Book for Social Justice Teachers

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